

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP, XE

SUBJECT: HIRC PRESS RELEASE ON CODEL WOLFF'S TRAVEL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE APRIL 4 PRESS RELEASE FROM
THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

WHITE HOUSE, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL ACCOMPANY
WOLFF ASIA MISSION IN "NEW ERA"

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. REP. LESTER WOLFF (D-N.Y.)
CHAIRMAN OF THE ASIAN & PACIFIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE,
HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, TODAY ANNOUNCED
THAT HIGH WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS
HAVE AGREED TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON A FIVE-NATION EAST ASIAN
INSPECTION MISSION APRIL 7-20.

WOLFF, WHO ALSO CHAIRS THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
NARCOTICS ABUSE & CONTROL, SAID RICHARD HOLBROOKE,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIAN & PACIFIC
AFFAIRS, AND DR. PETER BOURNE, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE
PRESIDENT, WILL ACCOMPANY THE MISSION TO TOKYO, SEOUL,
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JAKARTA, BANGKOK AND MANILA.

"THIS IS NOT A SYMBOL, BUT, RATHER, IS HARD EVIDENCE THAT
A NEW ERA OF GENUINE COOPERATION BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS UNDERWAY, PARTICULARLY IN THE VITAL
AREA OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS," WOLFF SAID TODAY.

"WE HAVE RECENTLY HELD HEARINGS DISCUSSING SUCH ISSUES AS THE U.S. BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA, AND NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM, AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA," WOLFF SAID, ADDING, "THE PRESENCE OF TOP OFFICIALS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL EVIDENCE TO THE LEADERS WE VISIT THAT CONGRESS IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROCESS, AND THAT THE OLD ERA OF ONE-MAN, SECRET DIPLOMACY -- WITH ALL OF ITS INHERENT RISKS -- IS TRULY ENDED."

WOLFF'S SUBCOMMITTEE HAS LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSEEING U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE, AID AND OTHER PROGRAMS IN ASIA WHICH ARE PRESENTLY BEFORE THE FULL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AND WILL SOON GO TO THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.

IN ADDITION TO HOLBROOKE AND BOURNE, WHO WILL BE MAKING THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL TRIPS TO ASIA, OTHER ADMINISTRATION REPRESENTATIVES ACCOMPANYING THE WOLFF MISSION INCLUDE MS. MATHEA FALCO, SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NARCOTICS MATTERS.

WHILE THE WORKING GROUP IS OVERSEAS, MEMBERS WHO HAVE SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NARCOTICS MATTERS ON THE SELECT COMMITTEE WILL BE INVESTIGATING THE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL EFFORTS BEING MADE TO STEM THE FLOW OF ASIAN HEROIN FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE NATIONS OF BURMA, THAILAND AND LAOS.

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WOLFF AND OTHER NARCOTICS CONTROL EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT SOME 15 OF THE U.S. HEROIN SUPPLY STEMS FROM S. E. ASIA, AND THAT AN EVEN HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ASIAN HEROIN IS FLOODING THE EUROPEAN MARKET.

2. COMMENT: AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, THE ABOVE STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO TRAVEL OF HOLBROOKE AND BOURNE IS NOT PRECISELY ACTIVE.
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